
S H O C H I K U

DANCING PLAY

"SUMIDA-GAWA"

TO BE PRESENTED BY KIKUGORO TROUPE
AT SHINBASHI ENBUJO THEATRE FROM OCT. 2ND
TO ----- 1948

---C.C.D. J-2040



Whole stage shows the scene of the Sumida River
with a distant view of Takuba mountains. On a little
stage Kiyomoto reciters sits in a line.

Curtain rises

Boatman: I am a boatman on the Sumida River in Musashi
Province. I am going to carry them
across the river now. However I heard that
a mad lady is coming down from Kyoto, so I
want to wait for her for a while

Kiyomoto:

"Though the mother knows
her way well
She sometimes is lost
herself for care of her child
As she can find no one
to talk about her anxieties."

Mad Lady: Here is a woman who has lived in Kita-shirahawa
in Kyoto.

"Being carried off her child
by a kidnapper unexpectedly,
She has come down Azuma
to look for her child
As she heard that he is here
in Azuma Province?"

Mad Lady: Hollow, Hollow, boatman there!
Let me get on your boat, too, please.

Boatman: Where are you from and where are you going?

Mad Lady: I am from Ayoto to look for missing one.
Oh, what's the name of that white bird?

Boatman: That is the sea-gull.
"It's called plover in some place"
"But it's called in special name
at Sumida River.
It's 'Miyako-dori'"
"Now you, 'Miyako-dori', I ask you.
Do you know whether my
dear son is alive or not around here."
"But no answer is given."
"As she asks to get on boat,
The boatman poles a boat."

Boatman: Now, get on soon.

Mad Lady: Oh, you are so kind.
What are on earth going there under that
willow-tree with so many people?

Boatman: They are praying for a poor soul.
I will tell you a sad story while we are
on this river.

"It was March last year.

A merchant came by,
with a boy whom he kidnapped at Kyoto,
On his way to Ohshu.

However the boy fell down here from exhaustion
As he never used to walk.

So cruel was the kidnapper,
He left for Ohshu

Leaving the boy alone here.

Boatman: As the boy was so handsome,
we imagined something
about his birth

"And asked him gently
where he was born.

He answered that he was
born in Shirakawa in Kyoto as a son
of Yoshida Family.

As soon as he told
his father's name
He ceased to be."

"Isn't it a sad story?"

"Now, let's offer prayers
for him in this boat."

Mad Lady: Say, Mr. Boatman. When was this case happened?

Boatman: In March of last year. And it is the very
day of his death.

Mad Lady: And how old was the boy?

Boatman: Twelve years old.

Mad Lady: What's his name?

Boatman: Unesaku-maru was the boy's name.

"Oh, the boy was my own.

Am I dreaming?

What a sad story

I have to hear,"

"As she burst out into tears."

Boatman: Then was he your own missed child?

How sad you must be! I am going to lead you
to the grave of your dear child.

Come on with me!"

"As the boatman takes her

to the grave under a willow-tree,

She embraces it in tears

Speaking to it as if it is her living son,

"I am here, I've never

expect you like this.

Oh, come out from your grave

And show me your smile."

Boatman:

I can understand you.

But it can't be helped.

I advise you, pray for his soul.

It is only the way you can take.

"For her son's soul.

She stands up and chants

"Save him, merciful Buddha!"

"Now, I heard his voice

in my chant.

Where are you, my darling?

Where are you, now".

"As she becomes insane,

The plovers' singing are heard

as her son's voice,

And the willow-tree

as her son himself."

(With the song of the boatman,

the mad lady dances showing

her grief. While she is dancing,

curtain falls.)